

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that there was an apparent typo in the preliminary amendment since claim 127 was indicated as canceled, however, an amended claim 127 was also provided. Claim 127 has been cancelled and is indicated as such in the listing of claims accompanying this amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 15, 24, 30, 57, 64, 67, 71, 80, 86, 87, 113, 114, 122, 123, 136, 142, 143, 169-174, 180-183 and 187-189 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,002,394 to Schein et al. (hereinafter Schein). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application claims priority through a series of continuations to U.S. Application No. 08/613,144 filed March 8 1996. The Schein patent was based on an application filed April 11, 1997, which is after Applicants' priority date. Accordingly, the full disclosure of the Schein patent is not prior art to the present application.

The Schein patent does claim priority to U.S. Application No. 08/537,650, filed October 2, 1995 (hereinafter the '650 application). However, the Schein patent is a continuation-in-part of the '650 application and is only entitled to the benefit of the October 2, 1995, priority date for information disclosed in the '650 application.

The Examiner erroneously cited sections from the Schein patent as showing the claimed invention. As discussed above, only the disclosure of the '650 application is prior art for the present invention. Accordingly, the foregoing discussion will only consider the disclosure of the '650 application.

Applicants claim system and methods for providing a programming signal that includes a program and an address that identifies online content relating to the program. Further, independent claims 1, 57, 113, 169 and 181 have been amended to clearly specify that the "address can be used to automatically retrieve and play online content." The automatic retrieval

and play of online content related to a program is important because the user need not be distracted from the program to search for and access the additional content.

The '650 application does not mention or even suggest providing an online address in conjunction with a program. Page 14, lines 10-27, of the '650 application states that information about the program can be linked using an on-line service or an available database. However, an online address is not provided with the program. Further, this section of '650 application states that the online content is not automatically retrieved and played as claimed, rather the user must first search for and select the information using an online service or database.

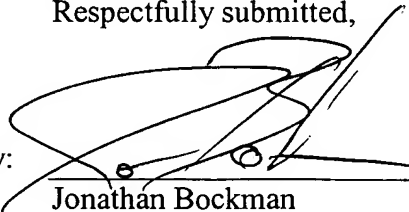
Since the '650 application fails to disclose both providing an online address in conjunction with a program and automatically retrieving and playing online content as claimed, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 15, 24, 30, 57, 64, 67, 71, 80, 86, 87 113, 114, 122, 123, 136, 142, 143, 169-174, 180-183 and 187-189, should be withdrawn.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **Attorney Docket No. 559442600207**.

Respectfully submitted,

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